

b.) Remarks

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions of:

Group I (Claims 1-13), drawn to compounds of formula (1);

Group II (Claims 14-17), drawn to compound of formula (2-5);

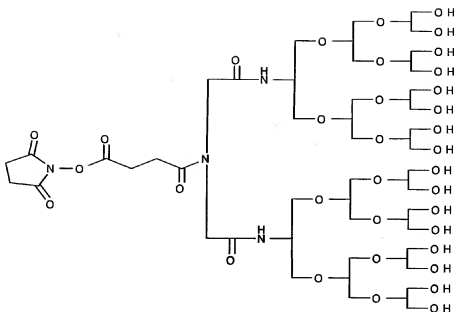
Group III (Claims 18-22), drawn to chemically modified polypeptide; or

Group IV (Claims 23-30), drawn to compositions and methods of improving stability.

Although the claims in Group II are written in independent format, claims 14-17 are subgeneric to the invention of group I. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Groups I and II be rejoined.

Nonetheless, in response to the Examiner's request, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-13.

Also, as understood, the Examiner is requesting that a selection be made to one of the species within the elected group for initial search. In response, Applicants hereby select for search the following compound.



Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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